

Army's CRNA Training Program

**Guidelines for Civilian and Reserve Component
Officers**



Version: June 2008

Before You Begin:

These guidelines are tailored for the *civilian applicant and Reserve Component officer interested in applying for direct accession into the Army's CRNA training program.*

If you are a Regular Army active duty Army Nurse Corps officer, please refer to the Army Nurse Corps Branch Website: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/Active/ophsdan/default.htm>.

Introduction

Congratulations on your interest in applying to the Army's CRNA Training Program. It is possible for Civilians and Reserve ANC Officers to enter active duty as Regular Army Nurse Corps officers and move directly to the Army's CRNA training program. The application process can be time consuming so it is recommended you start as early as possible. Please read these guidelines carefully.

Overview

A great source of info on the Army CRNA training program is the Army Medical Department Center and School, Department of Nursing Science, CRNA Website:

<http://www.dns.amedd.army.mil/crna/> . Here you will find program information and links to other sites associated with the United States Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN).

You can download a USAGPAN Program flier at the following web address:

<http://www.dns.amedd.army.mil/crna/USAGPAN%20Flyer%20Color%202-7-08.pdf>

In addition to USAGPAN, there are a limited number of seats available each year at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program (the USUHS Program) in Bethesda, Maryland. The USUHS program is similar to USAGPAN in length and its prerequisites. Further information on the USUHS program can be found on its website: <http://www.usuhs.mil/gsn/>

All applicants must apply to the U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (the Army Program) located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. If desired, applicants may also apply to the USUHS program but seats are limited in this program. The Army Nurse Corps will directly select candidates to the Army program or the USUHS program as deemed in the best interest of the AMEDD and the applicant.

Applying to the Programs

Pathway for entry into the Army's CRNA program is fairly straight forward. Everyone who is not a Regular Army, Army Nurse Corps officer (this includes civilians and Reserve Officers) needs to first work through the US Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) to complete various administrative actions that are required before they can be accessioned to active duty as a Regular Army Nurse Corps officer. This process is painless but it can take many months so starting early is a good idea.

First step is to contact an Army Healthcare Recruiter. This can be done in one of several ways:

- Go to the US Army Recruiting Command website:
http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/army_health_care_corps.jsp.

-Click on “**Ask a Question**” to request to have a Healthcare Recruiter contact you regarding the Army’s CRNA training program
Or
-Click on “**Locate a Recruiter**” to find the contact info for the closest Healthcare Recruiter
- Healthcare Recruiters will guide you through the process of determining your eligibility for the program, completing the application process, and answering any of your questions along the way.

Step two is to gain admission to the Northeastern University.

- Northeastern is the affiliate university for the US Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN). Applicants will find its admission process similar to other civilian universities. Northeastern University has a website specifically for those interested in getting more information and applying to USAGPAN :
<http://www.northeastern.edu/bouve/programs/armyprograman.html>
- Healthcare Recruiters will assist applicants in arranging an interview with Army Active Duty CRNA in order to receive the required Letter of Recommendation for their application.

Points of Contact

Prospective applicants are not expected to complete the application process alone. Use the list of names and addresses below to seek assistance with the process.

- Active Duty Nurse Programs Manager, USAREC : (502) 626-0364
 - Along with your healthcare recruiter, this office will provide an excellent source of information on the process of getting applicants accessed as Active Duty Regular Army Nurse Corps Officers.
 - Website: http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/army_health_care_corps.jsp.
- Army Nurse Corps Branch Education Management Officer : (703)325-2398
 - Can provide information on Army Nurse Corps career, milestones after selection for program, other questions related to a career in the Army Nurse Corps.
- United States Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing (USAGPAN)
 - LTC Thomas Ceremuga Program Director (210)295-4401
 - LTC Joseph OSullivan Asst. Program Director (201)295-4769
- Northeastern University (NU)
 - Website: <http://www.northeastern.edu/bouve/programs/armyprograman.html>
 - Christine Long
Project Coordinator for the US Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing
(617) 373-3124
c.long@neu.edu
- Uniformed Services of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing
 - Website: <http://cim.usuhs.mil/gsn/>
 - Ms. Terry Malavakis, Programs Team Leader (301) 295-1055
 - Lt Col Adrienne Hartgerink, Director, Nurse Anesthesia Program (301) 295-1199

ANESTHESIA TRAINING PROGRAMS and APPLICATION INFORMATION

U.S. ARMY GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ANESTHESIA NURSING (USAGPAN)

The U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing is a fully accredited 30-month course leading to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from the School of Nursing Northeastern University. The Army program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. Graduates are eligible to take the national Certification Examination for Nurse Anesthetists (CENA).

Phase 1 of the program consists of 51 weeks of classroom instruction at the AMEDDC&S, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Phase 2 is 73 weeks in duration and is conducted at select Army Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) affiliated with DOD, VA, and private sector hospitals. An MSN is awarded upon successful completion of Phase 2 and a research manuscript.

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES (USUHS) NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM (very limited availability of seats in this class each year).

The USUHS Program is a fully accredited 30-month course of study leading to a MSN degree. The USUHS Program is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. Graduates are eligible to take the CENA. The program is open to commissioned officers in the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Public Health Service.

Phase I of the program consists of 52 weeks of classroom instruction at the USUHS campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Phase II consists of 73 weeks of classroom instruction and clinical practice at DOD, Public Health Service, VA, and private sector hospitals throughout the United States. Army students are usually assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, but may be assigned to any of the University's primary clinical training sites. A MSN degree is awarded upon successful completion of Phase II and a scholarly research project.

Those requesting admission to the USUHS program directly after being accessed as Active Duty Nurse Corps officers will need to work through their Healthcare Recruiter and AN Branch at HRC to determine if there will be space available in this class.

Overview of Eligibility and Admission Requirements

There are a minimum of three (3) separate application processes that must be completed and then routed to their respective point of contact (POC). The Direct Accession applicant and their Army Health Care Recruiter will jointly decide the division of labor for these application packets. The Army Health Care Recruiter is responsible for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) Appointment / Active Duty Accession packet that must be sent to U.S. Army Recruiting Command; however, the recruiter's responsibility extends to assisting the applicant as needed through the entire accession/application process.

Process #1 - USAREC Appointment / Active Duty Accession packet. Your Army Health Care Recruiter will provide all the required guidance to you on the requirements for the USAREC Appointment / Active Duty Accession packet. Your Army Health Care Recruiter will provide information regarding eligibility for appointment and/or accession onto active duty.

Army Health Care Recruiters: Please forward a copy of the applicant's accession packet to the Army Nurse Corps Branch Education Manager once the candidate is approved for accession onto active duty.

Mailing address:

COMMANDER, HRC

AHRC-OPH-AN

ATTN: Nurse Corps EDUCATION OFFICER

200 STOVALL STREET, RM 9N47

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

Some key eligibility requirements for accessing onto active duty to complete long term health education and training in anesthesia nursing are:

a. **Age.** To be eligible for appointment as an Army Nurse Corps officer you meet current maximum age restrictions. Please ask your Health Care Recruiter about any age restrictions. Applicants that currently hold an Army Nurse Corps Appointment (Army Reserve/ARNG) should also ask their Health Care Recruiter about any possible age or age-ingrade restrictions.

b. **Grade.** USAR/ARNG field grade officers should discuss the process of obtaining a waiver for entry onto active duty with their healthcare recruiter early in the application process.

c. **BSN from an accredited nursing program.** Applicants must have earned a BSN from an accredited nursing program recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and acceptable to the Department of the Army (DA). Programs that were accredited either by the National League of Nursing (NLN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) at the time of graduation are considered acceptable programs.

d. **Current License.** Evidence of current, unrestricted licensure as a registered nurse is required with the application and prior to accessing.

e. **Clinical Experience.**

1) Applicants must demonstrate that they have had or will have at least one year of experience as a Registered Nurse in a critical care setting prior to the start of class, this includes emergency department and PACU experience. During that time, the applicant should have had an opportunity to: 1) develop as an independent decision maker, 2) demonstrate psychomotor skills, and 3) display the ability to interpret and use advanced monitoring techniques based on a knowledge of physiological and pharmacological principles. Preference for this Critical Care requirement is within 12 months of application.

2) Critical Care experience is defined as: critically ill adult or pediatric clientele requiring continual 24-hour care in specialized care units designed for extended care (ICUs, Emergency Room Departments, and progressive PACUs). Furthermore, the clientele must require the use of invasive hemodynamic and respiratory monitoring. Highly-qualified applicants should have experience in selected critical care competencies including electrocardiograph monitoring; bedside dynamic dysrhythmia recognition; hemodynamic monitoring; and arterial blood gas interpretation. Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider certification is highly encouraged but does not substitute for bedside clinical experience in critical care.

3) Direct accession applicants who are **not** applying as Critical Care Nurses (AOC/ASI 66H8A) will need a letter from their critical care supervisor attesting to the applicant's

competency in the above described clinical skills or plan for attaining future competency within the next year. Additionally, applicants not applying for the 66H8A identifier must demonstrate evidence of competency in critical care skills by presenting a completed Pre-Enrollment Verification of Clinical Competencies checklist to the Army health Care Recruiter before entry onto active duty. **(Page 9)**

f. Physical Examination.

1) All Direct Accession applicants will have a physical examination performed by the nearest Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). This medical exam will determine if the applicant is qualified for military appointment.

2) All applicants to the U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing must meet audiometric hearing H1 standards for enlistment/appointment as described in AR 40-501. Specifically, the audiometric hearing threshold level for each ear must be no more than 25 dB at 500, 1000, 2000 Hz with no individual level greater than 30 dB. Additionally, that at 4000 Hz the audiometric hearing threshold level must not be over 45 dB.

3) **Special Note:** Disqualification for the anesthesia program may result from hearing deficits. An applicant may be MEPS qualified for appointment, but the above mentioned condition can be a disqualifying criteria for the anesthesia program. AMEDD Health Care Recruiters will provide you with more information on this issue.

Process #2 – Northeastern University Application.

1. Consult Northeastern University website directly for information on completing and submitting application.. The application can be downloaded from the NU web site at: <http://www.northeastern.edu/bouve/programs/armyprograman.html>

2. Northeastern University requires a nonrefundable application fee. You, the applicant, are responsible for paying this application fee; however, ask your Health Care Recruiter if assistance is available for paying this fee.

Process #3 – AN Branch Human Resources Command, Packet Info

1. Accessions Packet: Healthcare Recruiter will forward a copy of the applicant's accession packet documents once the candidate is approved for accession onto active duty.

2. Additional Documents with accession packet:

1) One complete set of official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each college or university attended

- Transcripts bearing former last names require a page inserted in the application listing all names used.
- Grade reports or letters from instructors must be included for courses in progress.
- All non-English transcripts must be translated prior to submission

2) GRE score report

3) Audiometric Exam. Applicants must include documentation of a current audiometric exam with their application.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INDIVIDUAL'S RN CLINICAL SUPERVISOR: The individual named below has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to perform the following nursing activities in the bedside care of critically ill patients and has performed each at least once in the preceding two years. The remainder of the competencies may be evaluated by either observation of direct patient care, return demonstration in a skills lab, or case study analysis.

NAME:	RANK:	AOC:	COMPO: USA ARNG USAR
ACTIVITY	INITIALS	DATE	
<i>CARDIOVASCULAR/HEMODYNAMIC:</i>			
1. Able to provide immediate and continual assessment and intervention to stabilize and manage patients with:			
a. Cardiogenic, hypovolemic and septic shock.			
b. Actual or potential life-threatening cardiac dysrhythmias (ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, asystole, and complete heart block).			
2. Able to troubleshoot and manage the care of patients requiring the following devices/ interventions:			
a. Continuous EKG monitoring.			
b. Cardiac pacemaker (external, transvenous or permanent).			
c. Invasive arterial pressure monitoring.			
d. Central venous pressure monitoring.			
e. Pulmonary artery pressure monitoring and cardiac output determination.			
f. Fluid resuscitation			
3. Able to describe the indications, expected effects, side effects/adverse effects and demonstrate appropriate administration of the following:			
a. Inotropics (for example, Dopamine and Dobutamine).			
b. Vasodilators (for example, Nitroglycerine and Nitroprusside).			
c. Vasopressors (for example, Levophed or Neosynephrine).			
d. Antiarrhythmics (for example, Lidocaine or Procainamide).			
e. Advanced cardiac Life Support Drugs.			
SIGNATURE:		DATE:	

(Adapted from 8A Competency Checklist)